

What is claimed is:

1. An insertion unit for an endoscope, comprising:

a flexible tube having an inner diameter  $D_1$  and an inner cross-sectional area  $S$ ; and

a plurality of components inserted and arranged in said flexible tube, said components including an optical fiber bundle,

wherein, said inner diameter  $D_1$  is not less than 6.5 mm and said inner cross-sectional area  $S$  satisfies a condition:

$$0.5 \leq \Sigma s/S \leq 0.6$$

where  $\Sigma s$  represents a sum of cross-sectional areas of said components arranged in said flexible tube.

2. The insertion unit according to claim 1, wherein said inner diameter  $D_1$  is the inner diameter at the narrowest portion of said flexible tube.

3. The insertion unit according to claim 1, comprising a bendable member connected to said flexible tube, said bendable member being bent with said plurality of components inserted therein, said inner diameter  $D_1$  being the inner diameter in the vicinity of where said bendable member is connected to said flexible tube.

4. An insertion unit of an endoscope, comprising:

a flexible tube having an inner diameter  $D_1$  and an inner cross-sectional area  $S$ ; and

a plurality of components inserted and arranged in said flexible tube, said components including an optical fiber bundle,

wherein, said inner diameter  $D_1$  is less than 6.5 mm and said inner cross-sectional area  $S$  satisfies a following condition:

$$0.5 \leq \Sigma s/S \leq 0.65,$$

where  $\Sigma s$  represents a sum of cross-sectional areas of said components arranged in said flexible tube.

5. The insertion unit according to claim 4, wherein said inner diameter  $D_1$  is the inner diameter at the narrowest portion of said flexible tube.

6. The insertion unit according to claim 5, comprising a bendable member connected to a distal end of said flexible tube, said bendable member being bent with said plurality of components inserted therein, said inner diameter  $D_1$  being the inner diameter in the vicinity of a position where said bendable member is connected to said flexible tube.